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Dear Friends.

As some of you may know, I founded the Congressional Study Group on Public Health in March 2007 along with my colleagues Reps. Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA).

The Congressional Study Group on Public Health is focused on educating members and staff about public health issues. To this end, the Study Group has sponsored seminars and disseminated literature covering a wide range of timely public health topics. We have invited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health officials to help us provide congressional leaders and staff with a more complete understanding of – and easier access to – the myriad of important health protection efforts being undertaken by the federal government.

Since September of last year, we have been hosting a series of meetings with Congressional staff and with outside interest groups to discuss the public health community's priorities as we move into the 111th Congress. Over 50 organizations participated in the discussions representing a wide variety of interests. To see a complete list of organizations that participated, pleaseick here.

These meetings were held both in an effort to highlight the importance of public health in order to ensure that public health is not left out of health reform efforts undertaken this Congress and also to compile a list of principles that the public health community supports including in any sort of health reform effort undertaken this Congress. We have compiled the priorities and recommendations into a white paper. The paper includes a definition of public health along with several key principles, budget principles (for example, that the congressional budget process should reflect the significant savings associated with investments in prevention of disease and injury), and structural issues that the groups we met with support including in any sort of health reform effort undertaken this Congress. To read the complete white paper, pleasere.

I plan to continue my work on public health and other health care issues this Congress. Thank you for your support, and I will continue to keep you updated.

Sincerely,

Kay Granger

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